



# NEWS RELEASE

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 2, 2011

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Molly Deuberry

Director of Communications/Department of Public Works

molly.deuberry@indy.gov C: (317) 677-6469

## **IMPROVEMENTS TO INDY'S SEWER PROGRAM NOTED AS FIRST OF ITS KIND IN NATION**

*COST SAVINGS, EFFICIENCIES AND A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE TO BENEFIT RESIDENTS*

INDIANAPOLIS – The City's amended sewer program recently was recognized with the cover story by the magazine *Engineering News-Record* (ENR), the preeminent trade journal in the construction and engineering fields. The article calls the agreement the first of its kind in the nation and lauds it as an innovative approach to engineering, resulting in major cost savings and more efficiency.

"When I took office, it was imperative that we not only eliminate the hundreds of millions in cost overruns that the City's sewer program, or Consent Decree, had been allowed to balloon, but that we also look for quicker, more sustainable ways to ensure that Indianapolis had clean rivers and streams," said Mayor Greg Ballard. "Our hard work paid off with the results we wanted: clean water, cost savings, and a more sustainable solution."

The Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Consent Decree is an agreement between the City, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, under which Indianapolis developed and is executing a 20-year plan to curb the overflow of raw sewage from combined sewers into local waterways. At Mayor Ballard's direction, the Department of Public Works (DPW) assessed cost overruns and through value engineering, achieved the modification plan. The plan allows the City to meet the required Consent Decree performance criteria and 2025 timeline, but in a more cost-effective manner that removes 3.5 billion gallons of sewage ahead of schedule.

By utilizing value engineering and implementing sustainable approaches, the City has achieved \$740 million in savings. The new Consent Decree program is slated to reduce sewage overflows from the current average of 7.8 billion gallons per year to 414 million gallons at the end of the program. That reduction is an even greater reduction than the original Consent Decree required.

Not only will the new Consent Decree remove billions of gallons of sewage from entering the storm water system, but its projects will now cost less and involve less risk to groundwater contamination. The Deep Rock Tunnel Connector (DRTC), scheduled to bid this spring, is an integral component. The DRTC is more than six miles long and will extend from the Southport Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant to north of the Belmont Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. Because the DRTC is larger than original designed, it eliminates the

need for a \$30 million pumping station to assist in controlling excess wastewater. DPW also adjusted the design of the Belmont treatment plant expansion, which saved approximately \$90 million.

To read the entire ENR article highlighting the City's consent decree, please visit [www.indy.gov](http://www.indy.gov).

##